(c) the steps being taken to spread the efficient water conservation and utilization procedures adopted by the Panchayat of Hiware Bazar in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, which was recognised through the first National Water Prize last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources has approved 63 proposals for implementation of 5000 Farmer's participatory Action Research Programmes with the help of 60 institutions throughout the country. The implementation of the programmes started with the release of funds to the institutions in the month of November, 2007 after the Khariff, 2007. The programme has been designed for demonstrating the improved irrigation technologies to the farmers to ensure increased yield and income per drop of water through generating synergy among water, variety of agronomic practices, particularly relating to macro and micronutrients in the soil, and implements.

Upgradation of canal infrastructure in Punjab

3097. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that century old canal irrigation network of 14,500 kms in the State of Punjab has outlived its life;

(b) whether it is also a fact that State Government has made specific requests to the Central Government for upgradation of canal infrastructure;

(c) if so, what are the details of recommendations made by the State Government; and

(d) the step being taken to give clearance to the State Government for upgradation of canal infrastructure in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab in a letter dated 27.02.2008 has sought financial assistance for anti water logging measures in Punjab including canal relining and has enclosed a concept note in this regard. The note mentions of century old canal network in the State. No extent of the network which has outlived its life has been mentioned.

The concept note mentions that on the basis of recommendations made by a Central Ground Water Board Team which visited the water logged areas of Muktsar, Ferozpur and Faridkot districts during the month of September-October 2007, a comprehensive Anti-Water Logging Project has been prepared comprising of schemes concerning new surface drains, sub-surface drains, installation/rejuvenation of lift pumps, correction in deficiencies of existing drains by constructing new bridges or by deepening and widening of the existing drains, laser leveling and other miscellaneous issues such as pissiculture, bio-drainage and energisation of shallow tube wells. The estimated cost of the above project is about Rs. 300 crores. The concept note further mentions that the results of the above measures would not last for a long time if no corrections are made at the source of seepage and has therefore proposed relining of Rajasthan Feeder from RD 179000-496000 and Sirhind Feeder from RD 124000-434587 as it would save a substantial amount of canal water for Rajasthan and Punjab and also check water logging in the adjoining areas of the canals to a large extent. The estimated cost for the relining works out to about Rs. 425 crore for Rajasthan Feeder Canal and Rs. 225 crore for Sirhind Feeder Canal as per the concept note. Thus the total anticipated cost of the proposal as mentioned in the note is Rs. 950 crores.

It is mentioned in the note the water saved as a result of these proposals will irrigate about 2 lac acres of land in Rajasthan and Punjab and increase agriculture production in both the States to the tune of Rs. 300 crore per annum.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab has been requested to send a detailed project report for anti water logging measures in Muktsar, Ferozpur and Faridkot districts to the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal and submitting the same to the Advisory Committee for Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose projects of the Ministry of Water Resources for approval and the investment clearance from Planning Commission so that the project could be considered for central funding.

Conservation of Rivers by states

†3098. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to handover work of river conservation to the States;

(b) if so, whether it would also include problem of availability of water resource to the public due to obstruction in flow of water at different places due to dams on it; and

(c) who is responsible to supply water for agricultural and other works by maintaining constant flow of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Environment & Forests have reported that there is no proposal with the Ministry of Environment & Forests to assign river conservation to States.

(b) does not arise.

(c) 'Water' being a state subject, all issues related to water management are to be addressed by respective State Governments.

River bank protection schemes in Kerala

3099. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal of projects from Kerala under River Bank Protection Schemes are pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the number of proposals pending with the Ministry;

(c) the number of such proposals which have been given necessary clearance; and

(d) the reasons for the rejection/delay in granting approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no scheme with a name as "River Bank Protection Scheme". However, a state sector scheme namely, "Flood Management Programme" (FMP) (with an estimated cost of Rs. 8,000 Cr.) has been approved in principle, by the Cabinet in November, 2007 for providing central assistance to the States during XI plan, for the river management, flood control, anti-erosion and drainage development works; for which detailed guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Water Resources on 27th December 2007 to all States. Ministry of Water Resources has not received any proposal from State of Kerala for providing central assistance under the scheme "Flood Management Programme".

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.